

but it will prove the less erring guide that you can follow. Books and conversation may assist it; but adopt, neither blindly and implicitly, every book by that best rule, which God has given to direct us, reason. Of all the troubles, do not decline, as many people do, that of thinking."¹ And again, "All you learn, and all you can read, will be of little use, if you do not think and reason upon it yourself. One reads to know other people's thoughts; but if we take them upon trust, without examining and comparing them with our own, it is really living upon other people's scraps, or retailing other people's goods. To know the thoughts of others, is of use, because it suggests thoughts to one's self and helps one to form a judgment, but to repeat other people's thoughts without considering whether they are right or wrong is the talent only of a parrot, or most of a player."² In a letter to Lord Burghley in 1576, the Earl of Essex wrote, "I have wished his Education to be in your Household(Lord Burghley), though the same had not been allotted to your Lordship as Master of the Wardes; and that the whole Tyme which he should spend in England in his Minority, might be divided in Attendance, upon my Lord Chamberlayne and you, to the End, that as he might frame himself to the Example of my Lord of Sussex in all the Actions of his Life, tending either to the Warres or the Institution of a Nobleman, so that he might also reverence your Lordship for your Wisdome and Gravity, and lay

1. Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, p 218, Letter CLXXVL.
 2. *op. cit.*, p 61, Letter LXVII.